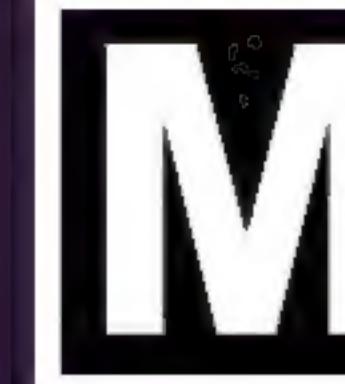


Vol.1 No.1



This book is intended for readers aged 18 and up. It may contain themes considered "mature."



# MONOLITH

LRNZ RECCHIONI UZZEO



MONOLITH™

Story by  
**ROBERTO RECCHIONI**

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and  
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**LRNZ**

Translation, Editing, and Layout/Lettering by Mike Kennedy  
Production Assistance by Chris Northrop



**SERGIO  
BONELLI  
EDITORE**

**MAGNETIC™**

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## BEFORE THE LIGHTS GO OUT

Sometimes stories come to you like a radio signal from deep space: you can hear a piece of it, but then the rest is too distorted and you have to reconstruct it in order to connect the various pieces of conversation that you managed to pick up. Other times, however, they arrive loud and clear, as if the radio station were one block away from your home transmitting on all frequencies at full volume.

The second case doesn't happen very often but when it does, for someone who creates stories for a living, it's as if Christmas arrived early.

*Monolith* is a story that formed in my head all at once, complete with a beginning, a middle, and an end, and I knew right away that it had great potential. And not because I'm a particularly good writer — it just worked on a level that transcended my style and my writing skills. Basically, I didn't feel the need to write it to realize its potential, it was already pretty powerful in its primal conceptual form. So I decided to try something different from my usual process and I started talking about it with my friends in the movie business. Now, if there is one thing I've learned about cinematographers it's that it can be very difficult to capture their attention, and being able to keep their attention is even more complicated. However, with *Monolith*, it was all very simple and the project was optioned just a few days after I had conceived it.

At that point, I grew disinterested because that's what you have to do with cinema: hope your idea becomes a movie, but don't believe it until it hits theaters. And it's good that I did, because in its first incarnation, *Monolith* made the rounds and received a lot of acclaim, landing on many important desks, but it stayed there for a couple of years. Always hope for it, but never believe it.

When the options expired, the story was back in my hands. I reread it, felt it was still good, and decided to propose it to Sergio Bonelli Editore to adapt into a comic. Once again, the approval was practically immediate, and I began to work on it. But in the meantime, the movie machine continued to roll, and this time the *Monolith* film became concrete and real. So this story turned into a train traveling on two parallel tracks.

Thanks you to those of you who have decided to follow us on this adventurous journey together. We ate a lot of desert dust along the way, but here we are. The room is dark, and the comic begins...

Roberto Recchioni

"A FAMILY."



"YOUR FAMILY"



"NOTHING IS MORE  
IMPORTANT TO YOU..."





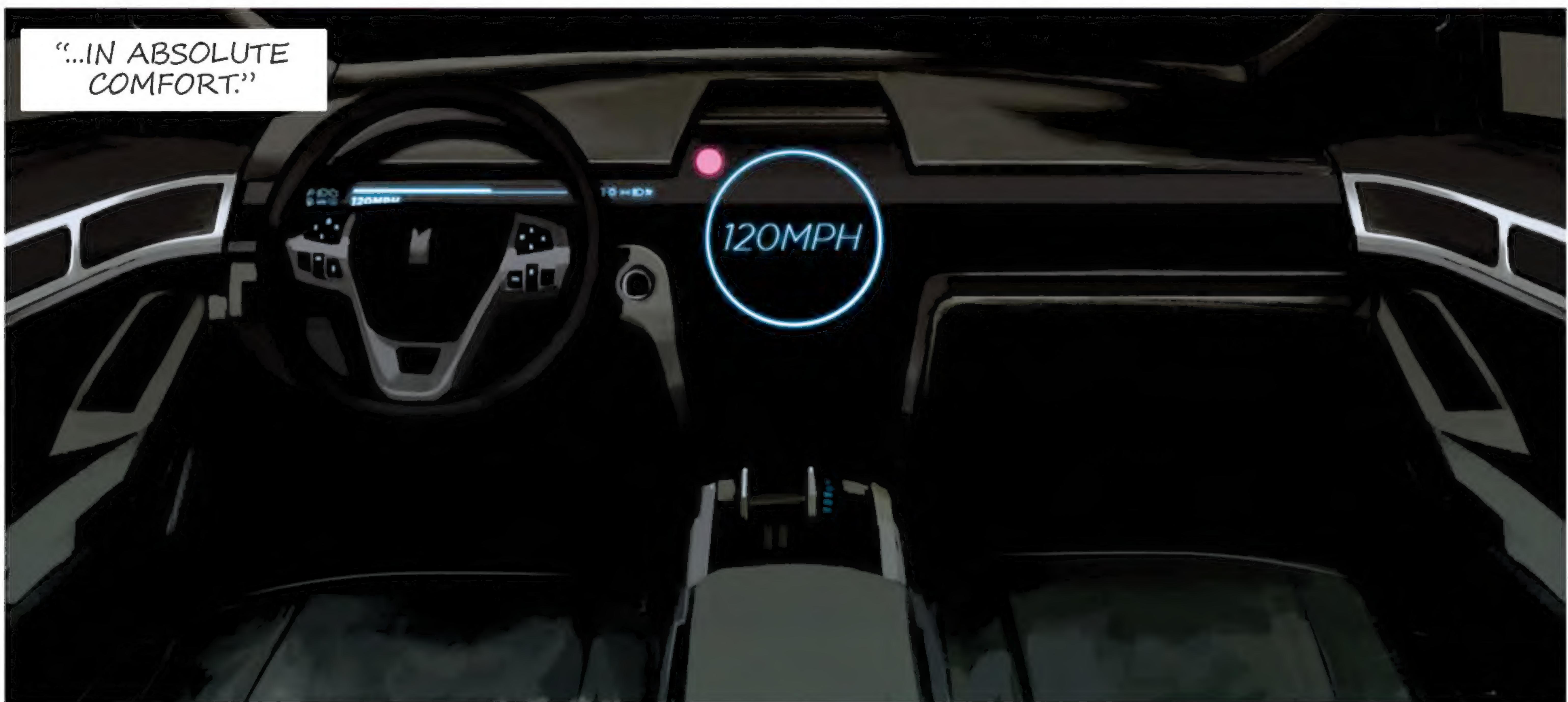
"ON THE ROAD..."



"...OFF ROAD..."



"...IN ABSOLUTE  
COMFORT."



"ANTI-LOCK  
BRAKES."

"TITANIUM ANTI-  
INTRUSION SIDEBARS."

"REINFORCED  
FRAME."

"ARMOR  
PLATING."

"360-DEGREE MULTI-ANGLE  
CAMERAS AND ELECTRONIC  
PROXIMITY DETECTION."

"DRIVE BY WIRE."



"CRUISE CONTROL."

"MULTIPLE AIRBAGS."

"ADVANCED ON-  
BOARD ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE."



"THE STATE OF THE ART IN  
TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN..."



"...WITH ONE SINGLE  
PURPOSE..."



"...THE SAFETY OF THE  
PEOPLE WE LOVE."

SHE'LL PROTECT YOU.



MONOLITH TM

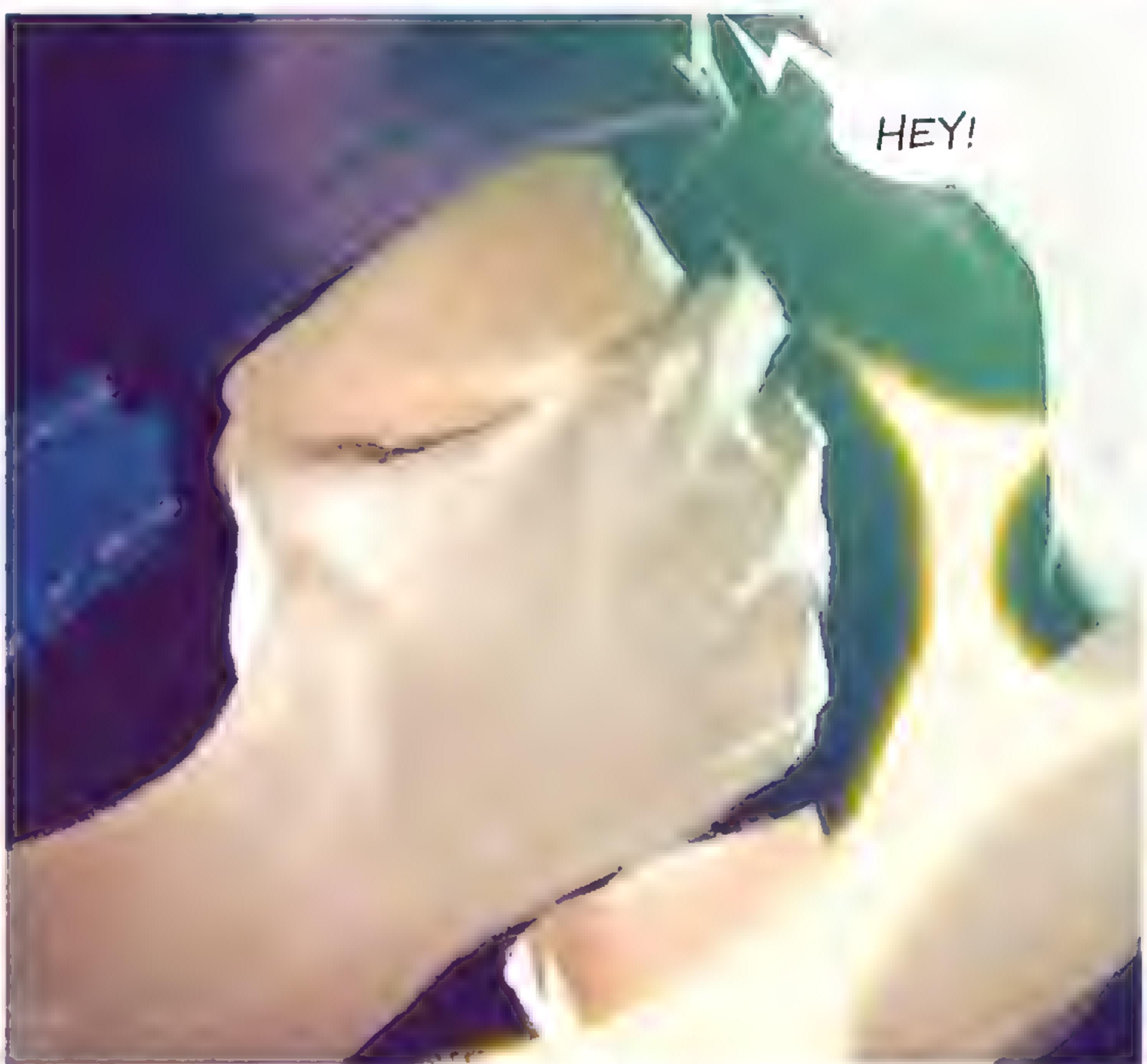


NOW GET READY  
FOR CARTOON  
FUN BLOCK!

















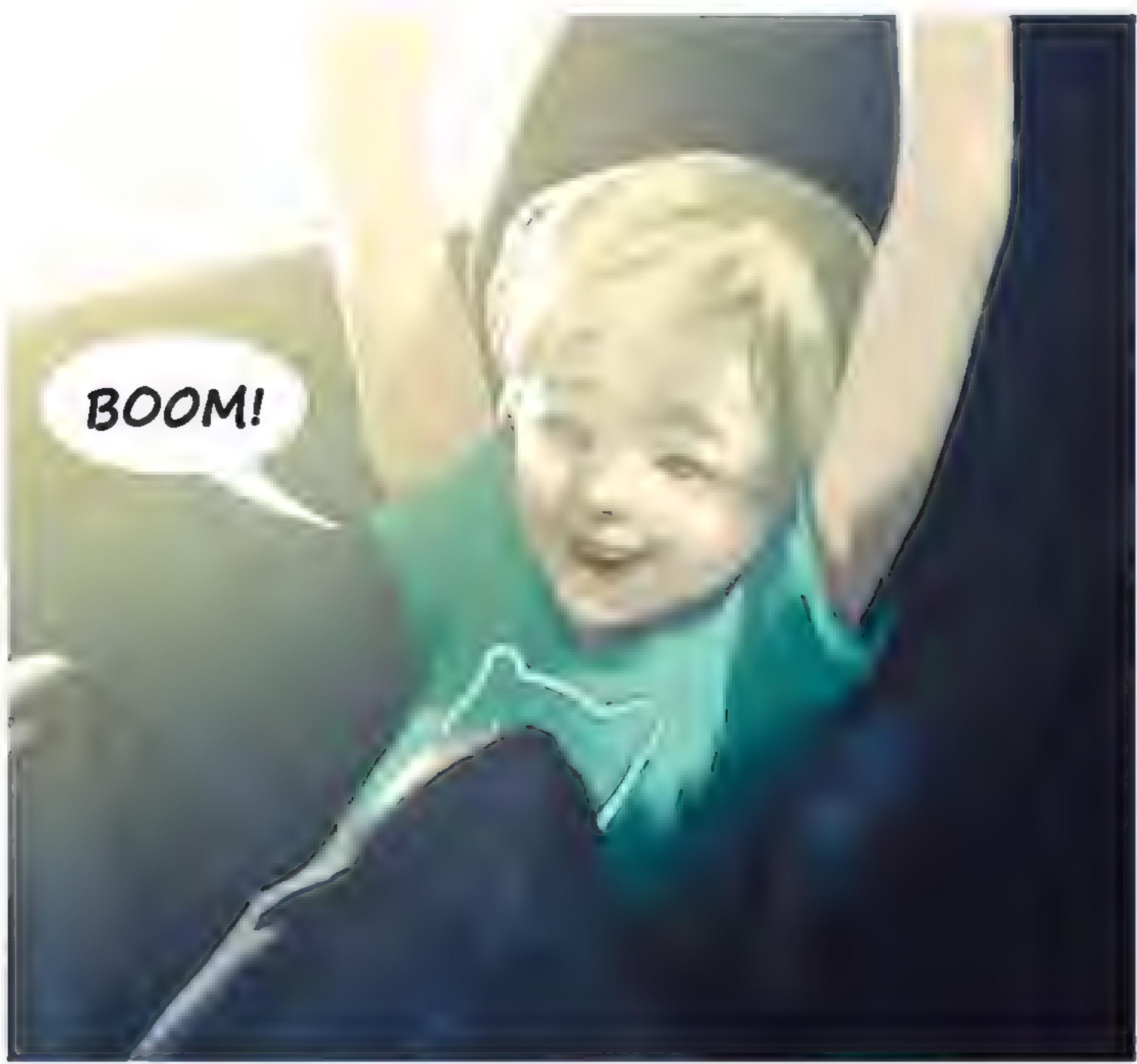














IS THAT HOW YOU  
PROVE HOW RELIABLE YOU  
ARE?! BY GETTING YOURSELF  
AND OUR SON KILLED?!



I'M TOO CONTROLLING AND YOU NEED A BREAK. I GET IT AND I'M FINE WITH IT. JUST DO ME ONE FAVOR ...

HERE COMES THE CATCH...

...TAKE MY CAR. I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU AND DAVID TRAVELING IN THAT OLD WRECK OF YOURS.



YOU KNOW I HATE THAT FOUR WHEEL PHALLIC EXTENSION. PLUS, I NEED MY MUSIC!

I UPLOADED YOUR COLLECTION INTO THE SYSTEM WHEN I BOUGHT IT. I HOPED YOU'D DRIVE IT SOME DAY... C'MON, IT'S GOT AIR CONDITIONING!

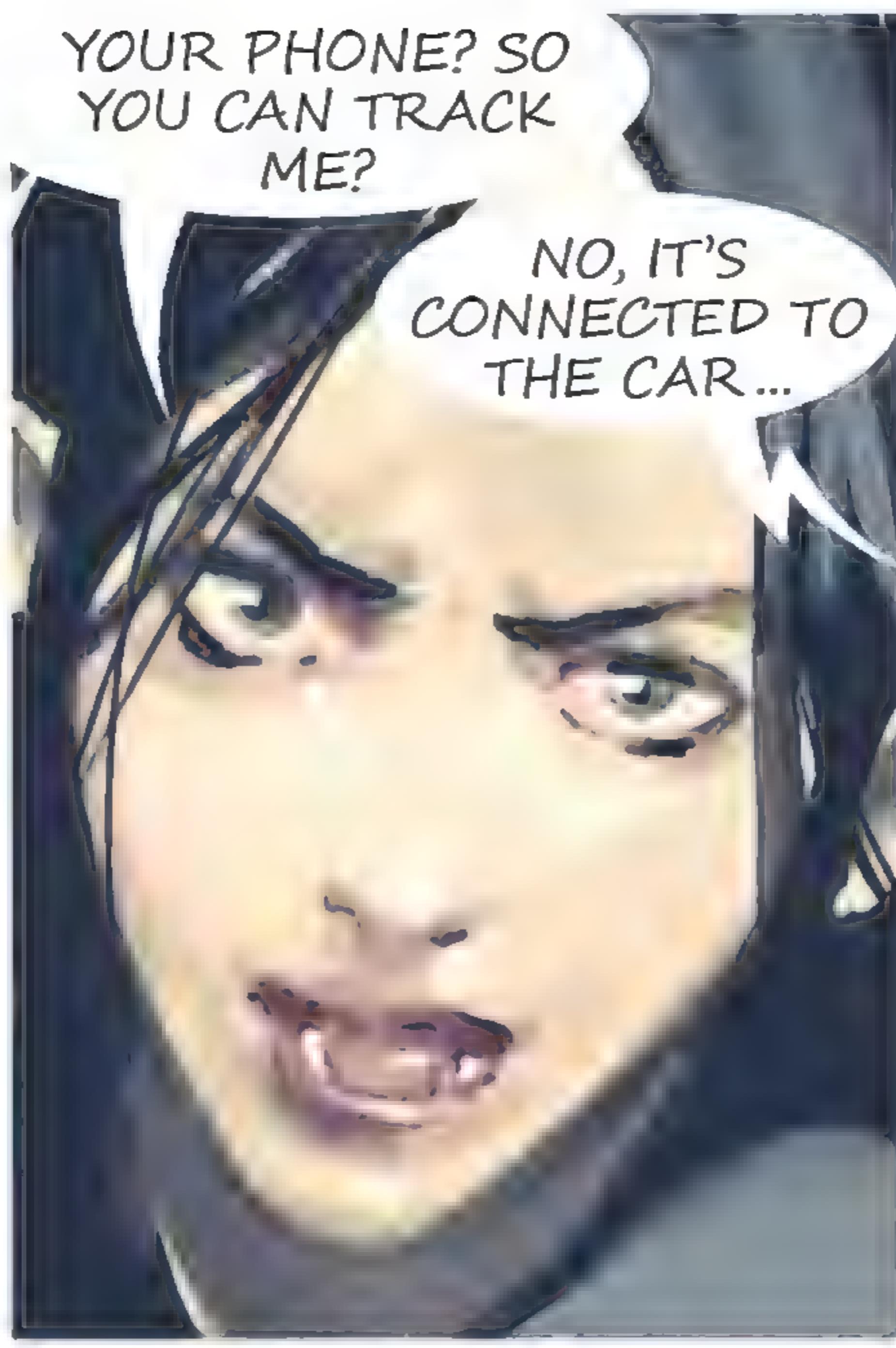
OKAY. YOU WIN. GIMME THE KEYS.

LUXURY CARS DON'T USE KEYS ANYMORE...

...JUST USE  
THIS!



YOUR PHONE? SO  
YOU CAN TRACK  
ME?



...JUST SWIPE YOUR FINGER OVER  
IT AND THE CAR RECOGNIZES  
YOUR BIOMETRIC SIGNATURE,  
GIVING YOU FULL ACCESS TO  
ALL CAR FUNCTIONS...



LET'S GET YOU  
REGISTERED...

ENTER NAME.

IRMA, THIS IS MY  
WIFE, SANDRA... GIVE  
HER FULL ACCESS.

NEW USER REGISTERED.  
NICE TO MEET YOU, SANDRA.

IRMA?

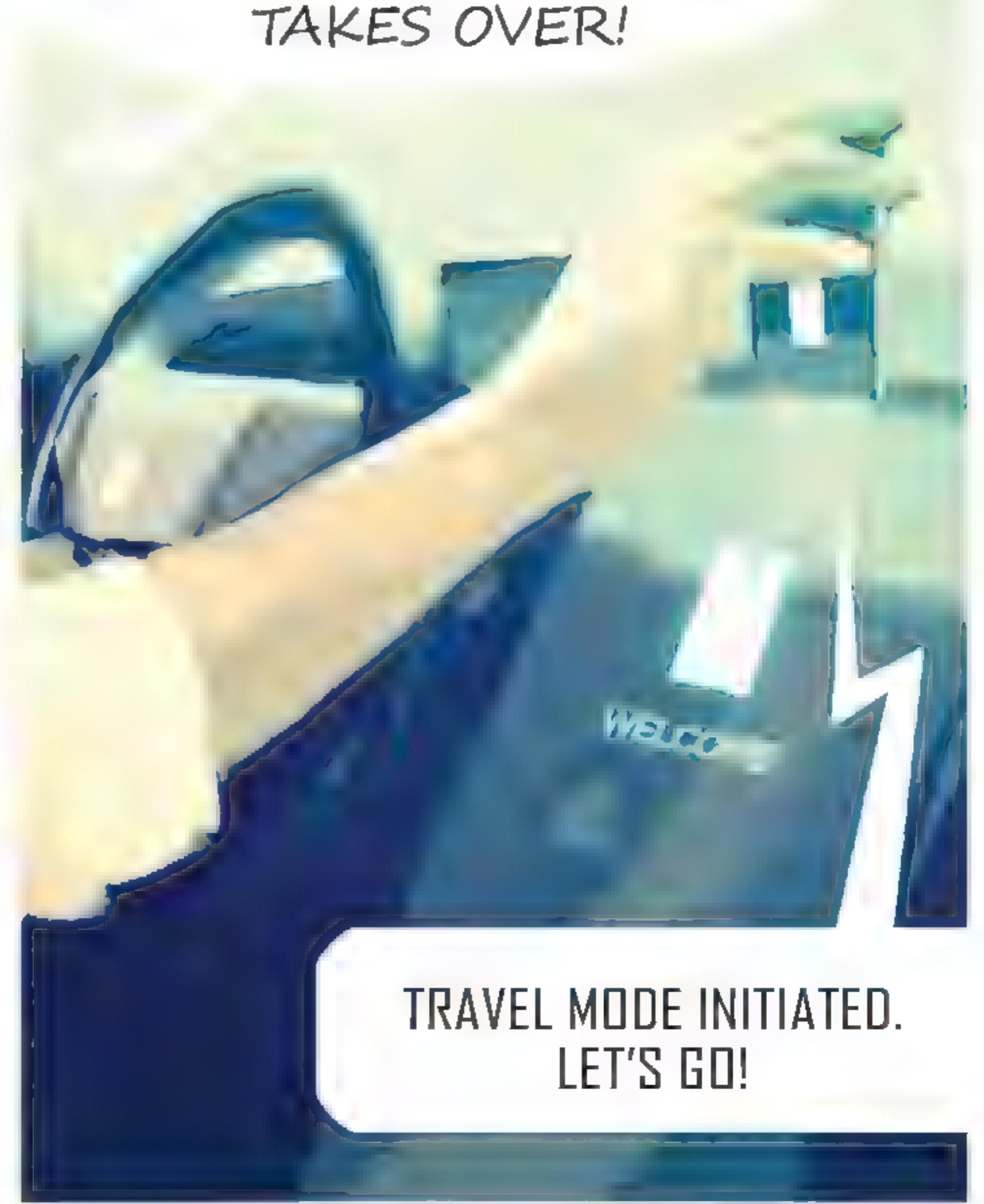


JUST DOCK IT IN THE  
DASHBOARD, AND SHE  
TAKES OVER!



SHE'S YOUR  
ON-BOARD ASSISTANT.  
SHE CONTROLS THE  
DOOR LOCKS, WINDOWS,  
ALARM, NAV SYSTEM...  
EVERYTHING.

TRAVEL MODE INITIATED.  
LET'S GO!





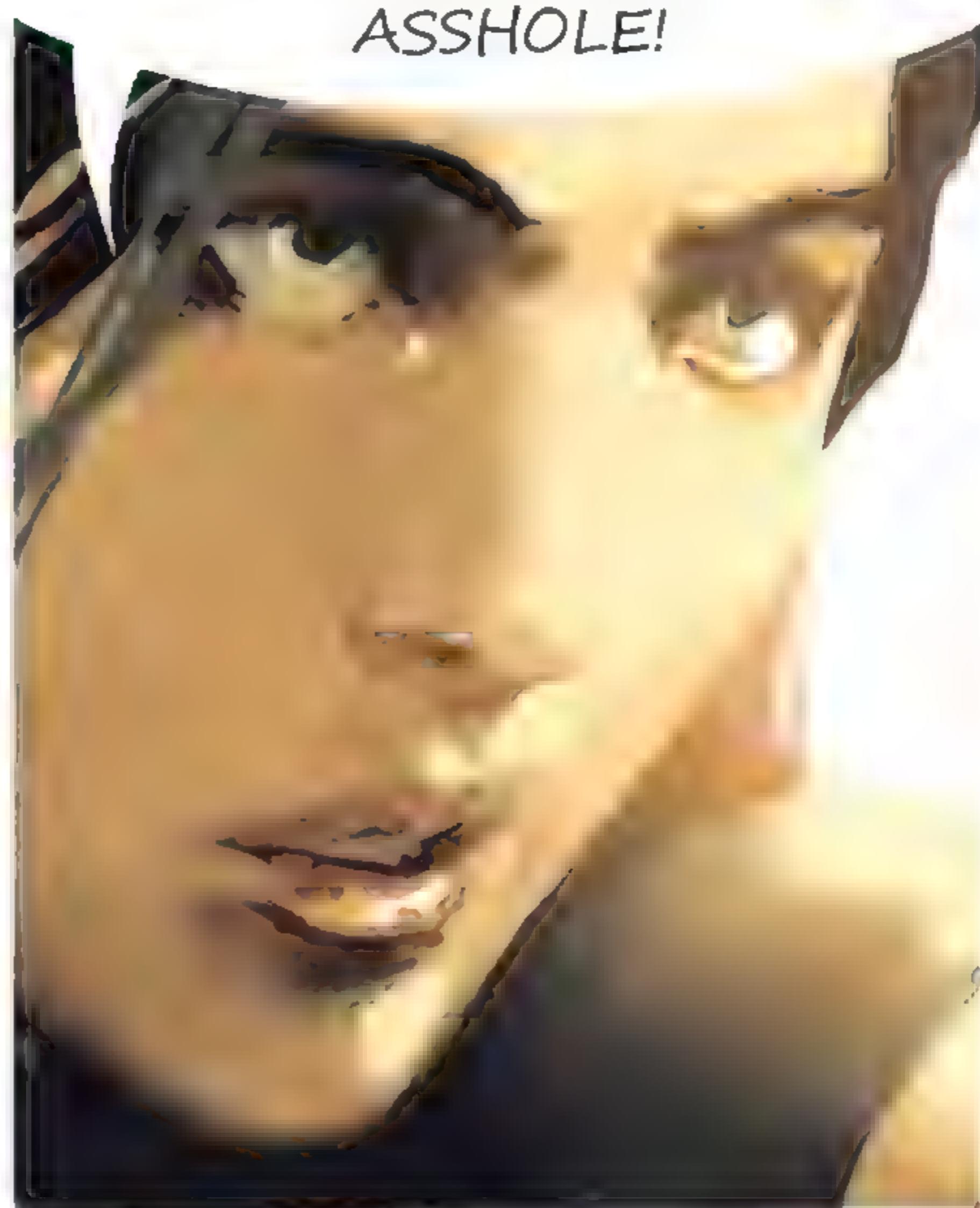




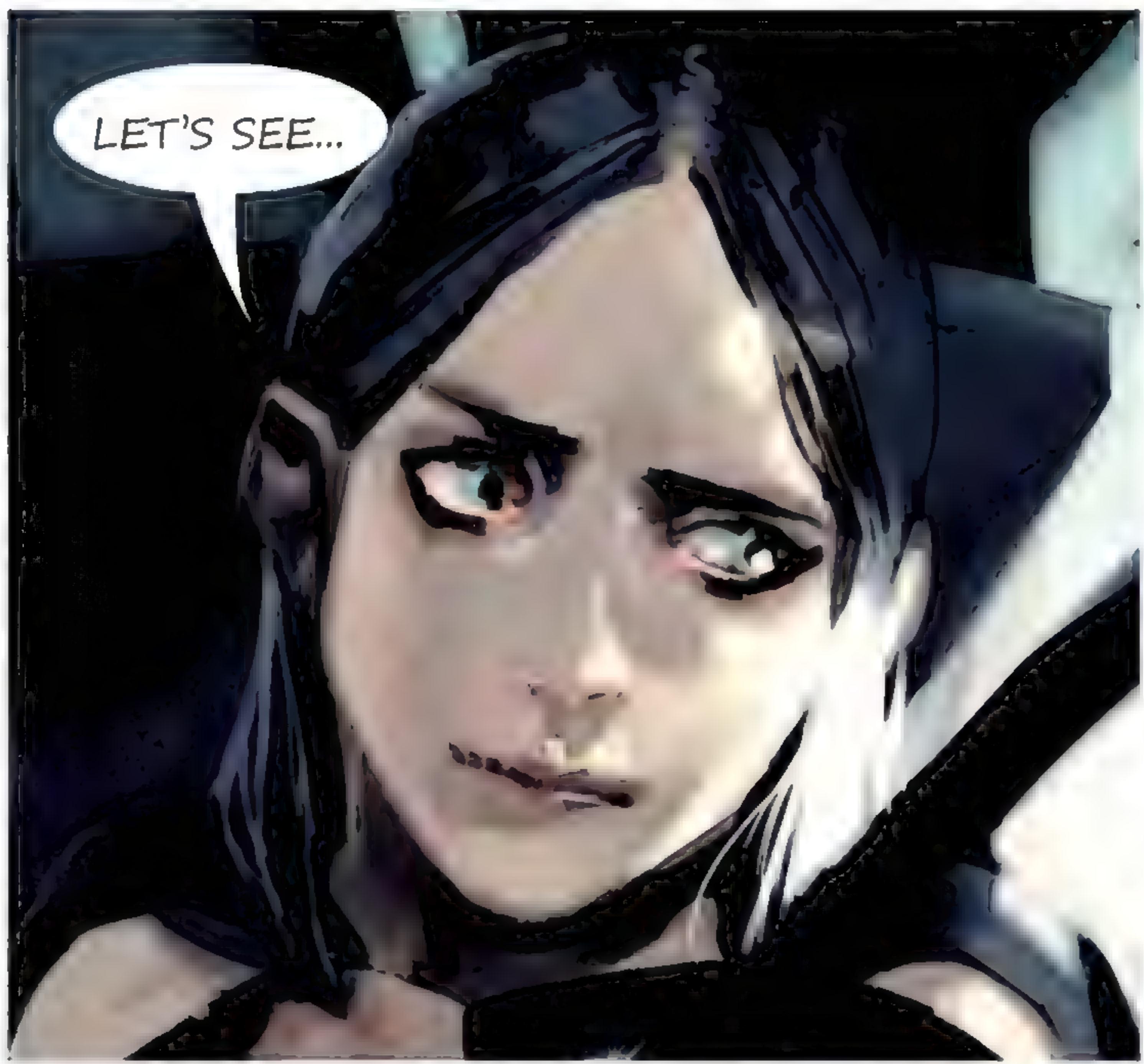
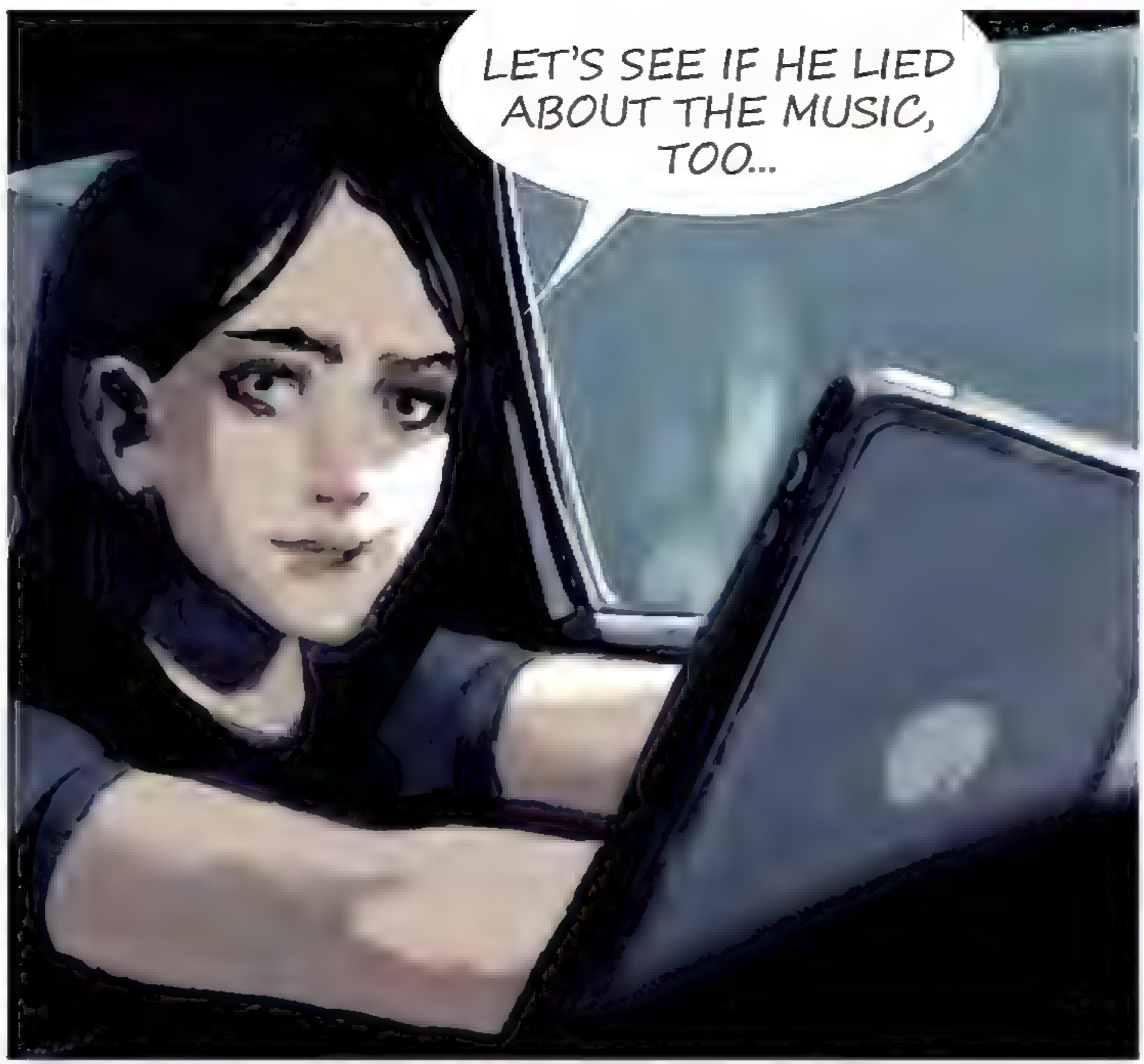
THIS VEHICLE IS CONNECTED  
TO A GPS TRACKING NETWORK.  
AUTHORIZED USERS MAY TRACK THE  
VEHICLE'S LOCATION IN REAL TIME.



SO CARL CAN WATCH US  
FROM HIS LAPTOP AT ANY  
TIME... MANIPULATIVE  
ASSHOLE!

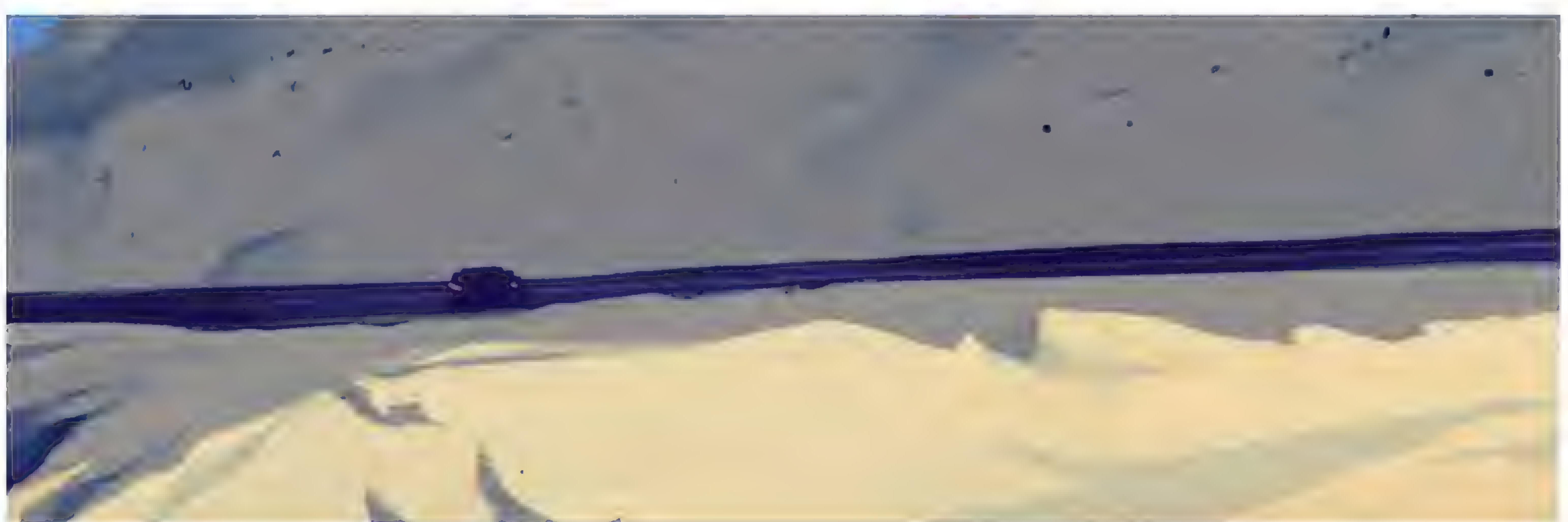








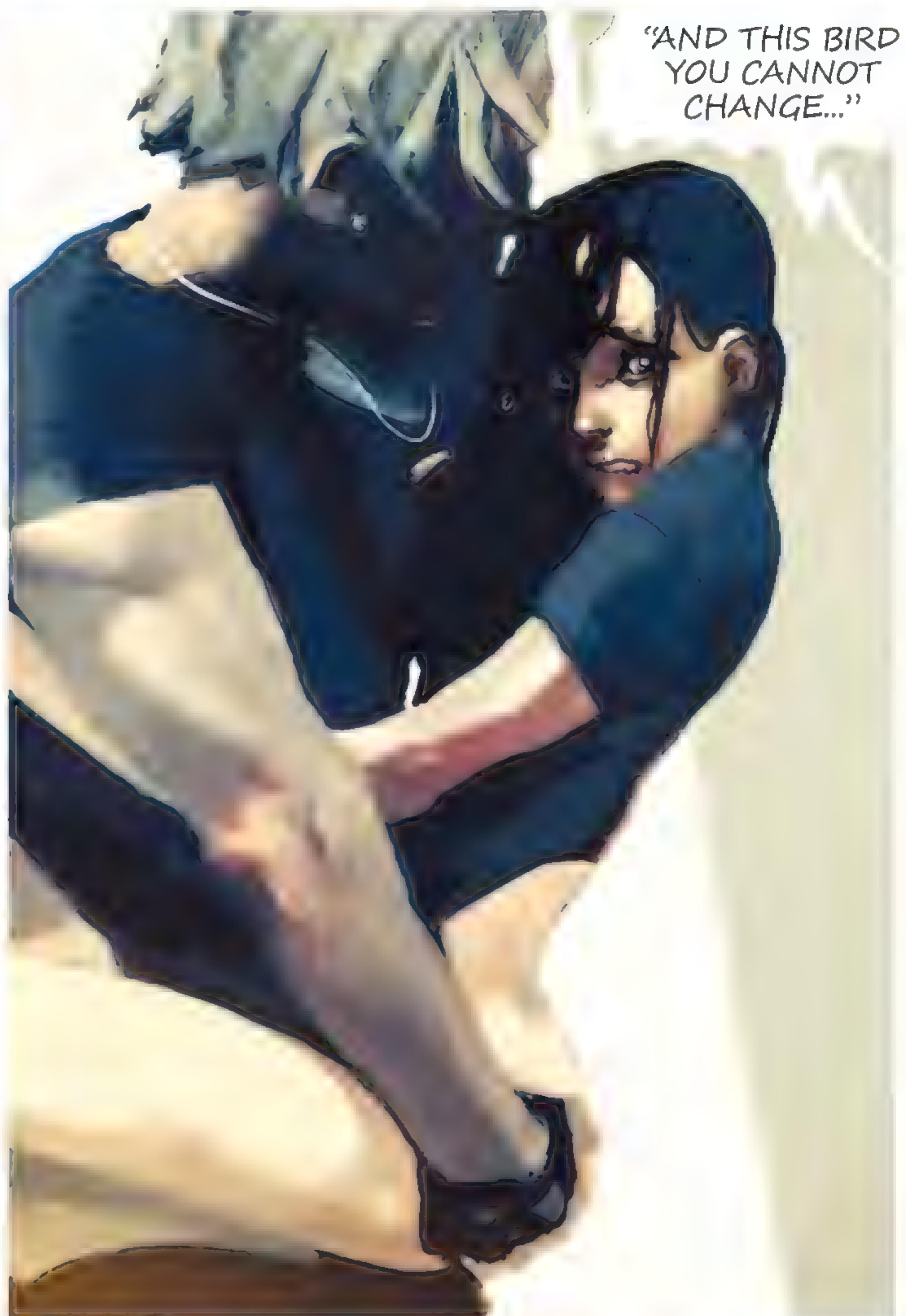




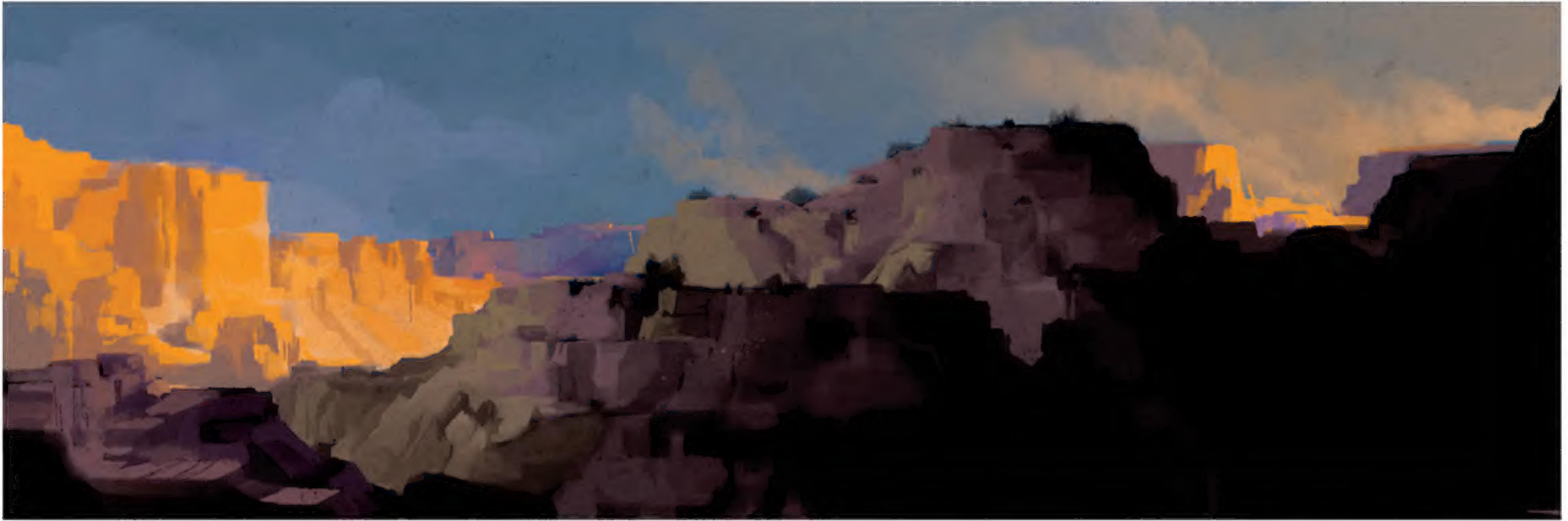












CALL ENDED. NO SIGNAL DETECTED.



OH, WELL. BORING CONVERSATION ANYWAY. WE'LL BE THERE SOON ENOUGH...



...ASSUMING THIS IS STILL THE RIGHT ROAD... IRMA, REACTIVATE THE ON-BOARD NAVIGATOR.

OKAY, SANDRA. BUT THIS WILL INDICATE OUR LOCATION AGAIN.



HNN... THEN FORGET IT. I CAN MANAGE ALONE.

WE DON'T WANT ANY BAD GUYS FOLLOWING US, DO WE?

NO!

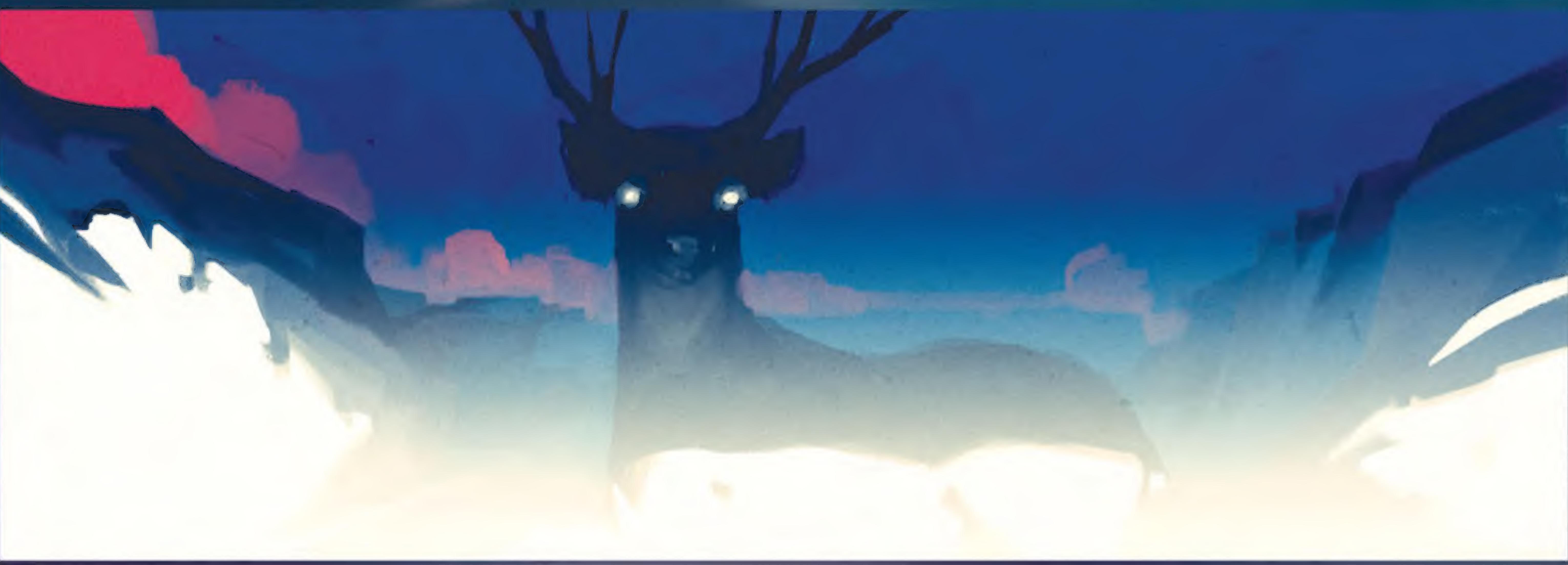


WHAT THE--





STUK



WRAK



SCREEEEECHHHHH



SCREEECHHHHHHH

STUMP

